

REGULAR MEETING, MUNICIPAL BOARD
MONDAY, AUGUST 17, 2009
7:00 P.M.

PRESENT Commissioners Blackler, Blackwell, Dolmatch, Hubbard, Moffa, and Roney, Director of Municipal Operations (DMO) Lotkowitz

OTHERS Cliff Abrams of 37 State Street, *John Camp of C&S Engineering representing the Town of Skaneateles

MINUTES

On the motion of Comm. Dolmatch, seconded by Comm. Blackwell, it was resolved and unanimously carried (6-0 in favor) to approve the minutes of the July 20, 2009 meeting as presented.

CRYPTOSPORIDIUM-U/V SYSTEM

In response to Comm. Moffa, DMO Lotkowitz said he doesn't have anything new to report relative to reducing the cost of the project. Comm. Moffa advised that he copied Attorney Byrne on an email to Comm. Roney today asking him (Atty. Byrne) if Municipal Law would require a second estimate of equipment. DMO Lotkowitz said he suspects we will to secure another quote. Comm. Dolmatch noted that the project will be under the Wicks Law if it is deemed a construction project versus just material purchase; he briefly explained the Wicks Law to Comm. Blackwell noting that the bid specs would get parceled out to subcontractors. DMO Lotkowitz said we can develop a performance spec with the Village doing some of the work (electrical support and control work). The vendor will provide and install the UV equipment. In response to Comm. Dolmatch inquired if it could be turn-key to a vendor, DMO Lotkowitz answered affirmatively. Comm. Blackwell recognized that's the way it is with AMR. Comm. Hubbard said we need to look at another vendor. DMO Lotkowitz added that Trojan may be an approved vendor, but we have to bid the equipment. Comm. Moffa said there are a few other manufacturers out there and he's worked with Aquionics before. DMO Lotkowitz noted that S&W identified someone else in their report.

TOWN LETTER RE: COMMUNITY WATER AUTHORITY

Comm. Moffa reported that Mayor Green sent a letter August 6, 2009 to Town of Skaneateles Supervisor Tierney in reply to his letter regarding the formation of a Community Water Authority. In response to the Village Board asking for the Municipal Board's thoughts on the subject, our input jelled and was summarized in the letter. Comm. Moffa said as far as he knows, no response has been received from the Town as of yet. John Camp of C&S Engineering confirmed that the town is in receipt of the letter and he just saw it today.

*Mr. Camp left the meeting.

AMR STATUS

Comm. Moffa recalled that Comm. Blackwell did a summary sheet and distributed it at last month's meeting. Comm. Roney noted that the minutes of June 15, 2009 indicated that Trustee Angelillo was asked to discuss the project overrun with the Village Board. Comm. Blackwell said according to his calculations there is a 30% cost overrun and the Village Board needs to take action. Comm. Moffa said he thinks we've done all we can do to call their attention to our concerns. Comm. Blackwell said according to the accounting, we've already spent \$100,000 all from Electric funds and still don't have a pilot system that works. He listed his concerns as follows: the cost overrun, the accounting, and the lack of a phase 1 pilot. Comm. Dolmatch said he agrees with Comm. Blackwell and recalled that we stipulated that before payment was to be made we needed a functional system even if only with six protocol meters. Comm. Blackwell said there is no project accounting; everything is recorded in Electric with the intent of properly allocating cost to the various funds down the road. He added that he thinks AMR should be accounted for as a project with detailed line items. DMO Lotkowitz explained that is because every nut and bolt is tracked in electric with manual tracking through daily work orders. Comm. Blackwell said he thinks the costs should be allocated to each department now and questioned how we know how much of the \$100,000 spent is really Electric and how much is Water. DMO Lotkowitz said he has that broken down on his spreadsheet – how much has been billed as detailed on vouchers approved by the Village Board, what's remaining, Electric labor, etc. Comm. Hubbard

recognized the initial intent was to have the Electric Dept. pay for AMR and later be reimbursed because the Water Department is broke. Have the Electric Dept. be the bank if you will - Comm. Dolmatch agreed that was a good way to think of it. He added that variances (i.e. quoted cost vs. actual billed) should be projected. Comm. Roney said that at any given time DMO Lotkowitz' numbers should reconcile with Village Clerk/Treasurer Sheehan's. DMO Lotkowitz advised that he double checks the vouchers before signing them. In response to Comm. Blackwell, DMO Lotkowitz said we have not paid for the tower gateway base station or system controller, but he is accounting for the cost in the summary for tracking purposes. He noted that the equipment cost is exactly as quoted. Furthermore, Dick Kaulfuss from EJP will be here August 24th and the goal is to "spit out" a bill by the end of the day.

TRANSFORMER ENCLOSURE ISSUES

DMO Lotkowitz reported that surveyor David Love has been hired and is starting this week. We've marked out the electric in the area in the back of the Village Office building. In response to Comm. Dolmatch, DMO Lotkowitz confirmed that Mr. Love will be developing both existing and new easements. Comm. Blackler asked if any new transformers will be needed. DMO Lotkowitz answered, no. We'll change to FR3 oil (basically vegetable oil that won't harm the lake water) and we would swap out a pole mount transformer for another if need be. In answer to Comm. Hubbard, DMO Lotkowitz said the remaining issues are the FR3 oil and bollards.

SYSTEM DIAGRAM PROJECT

DMO Lotkowitz said he is still gathering data in conjunction with CMOM (Capacity, Management, Operation & Maintenance).

ISO-HYDRANT RATING-STATUS OF DISTRIBUTION MODEL

DMO Lotkowitz said the downtown hydrants have not been done yet – maybe next month.

STIMULUS BILL-STATUS OF APPLICATIONS

DMO Lotkowitz reported that he looked at all the different projects relative to the Water Quality Improvement Projects (WQIP) Grant Program. He suggested that the milfoil eradication project should be submitted as it fits into water quality. Comm. Hubbard recognized that as a Town undertaking with several towns involved. Comm. Dolmatch said that the Town should be the lead agency for milfoil. DMO Lotkowitz said other projects he's identified are WWTP upgrades (new RBCs), as well as the West Lake Street drinking water system and storm lines. Comm. Moffa asked who the contact person is at the DEC, because in his experience, contacting the correct person works well. Regarding NYPA funding, the AMR smart grid would fit, but we'd need a working system first. Comm. Moffa said unless we can segment out a portion – isolate a small component of the system with labor cost as the Village's contribution. Comm. Dolmatch said two customers, the P&C and Skaneateles Central Schools, would be the easiest to manage. However, we don't have an incentive for them to reduce their cost. Comm. Dolmatch suggested that the underlining of electric from the substation to Jordan Street might fall under the Homeland Security cloak; DMO Lotkowitz reported that a plan was submitted to Mayor Green. Comm. Moffa recognized that DMO Lotkowitz is going to need help with the applications. DMO Lotkowitz confirmed that there is a point structure for grant applications and awards.

WEST LAKE STREET PROJECT

The above discussion relates to the West Lake Street project. In response to Comm. Roney asking what the thought of the Village Board is DMO Lotkowitz said with revenues down this year there is a shortfall. Therefore, we didn't hire two seasonal laborers to work in the cemetery and we held off on projects; we just fixed pot holes on West Lake. In response to Comm. Blackwell, Comm. Dolmatch explained that the contribution to the State's pension pool was also a question in addition to decreased revenues (i.e. mortgage tax, sales tax, etc.) – they may all be contributing factors as to not doing West Lake Street this year.

STATUS OF RESOLUTION #2009-2 AND ELECTRIC SERVICES DISCUSSION OF MAY 18

Comm. Moffa said that Trustee Angelillo is not here to report.

MEETING WITH DEC REGARDING CMOM

DMO Lotkowitz reported that he met last week with Sandy Lizlovs of the DEC about the CMOM plan that we have to develop for our distribution system. She recommended producing something that is beneficial to the Village. DMO Lotkowitz said he put together talking points. Not all has to be done by February 1, 2010, but rather a “plan of the plan” with an implementation plan attached. DMO Lotkowitz said he learned that we are one of the “guinea pigs” – not every system is required to do a CMOM. Part of our plan will be to look at capacity every so often and document what things we do with I&I. The draft is due by the first of the year for DEC’s review and approval and then we’d have to implement the plan within three months. In response to Comm. Dolmatch asking if S&W has a typical O&M plan, Comm. Moffa said there is a framework to follow including documentation of what we have under ground, indicating the age of materials/infrastructure and project replacements, document breakdowns, and identifying staff – measurement and modeling are a big part of CMOM. DMO Lotkowitz recognized that it will force us to analyze what we are doing as we will have to report annually. Comm. Moffa commented that it should be done for the water system too.

TALLCOT TRACT

Comm. Hubbard said that Village Attorney Byrne noted from the agenda that the Municipal Board would be discussing some issues relative to the Tallcot Tract, a private water line, and made a suggestion. However, Comm. Hubbard stated that he doesn’t know if it’s the Municipal Board’s decision. DMO Lotkowitz explained that the line runs along homes on Rt. 41 outside the Village line. Comm. Hubbard added that we are servicing village water outside into the town – the public water stops at the Tallcot Tract. Repairs and maintenance should be required by the Town, not the Village as was recently done by Village employees when a leak developed. Comm. Blackler said we could say we won’t repair it any longer. DMO Lotkowitz added that AMR meters will be there eventually also. Comm. Moffa said that Tallcot Tract residents would be well advised to do a water pressure study. Comm. Roney clarified that it is their line; we fix it, and don’t charge for the repairs or water loss. Comm. Moffa said there isn’t much the Municipal Board can do – it is not within our jurisdiction. DMO Lotkowitz said even if we are certain there are leaks we aren’t billing them for the water loss, but water doesn’t cost us as we don’t treat it. Comm. Hubbard said there is some merit to not billing for water loss because it is inherent with rates; DMO Lotkowitz said direct revenue comes from village meters. Comm. Hubbard reiterated that Village labor shouldn’t be fixing leaks in the private water line within the Tallcot Tract. Comm. Roney suggested we advise the individuals that we’ll bill for repairs in the future or they should fix it themselves. Comm. Dolmatch said perhaps they could be put on notice that they own the lines. DMO Lotkowitz said the right thing to do would be to extend the lines with solid connections. Comm. Moffa will check with Mayor Green on the protocol for responding to Mike Byrne’s letter.

NEXT MEETING

The Board was reminded that the next meeting is scheduled for Monday, September 21, 2009.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Patty Couch

Patty Couch
Deputy Clerk/Treasurer